THE #1 NATIONAL BESTSELLING SERIES

WARRIORS

SUPER EDITION

CROOKEDSTAR'S PROMISE

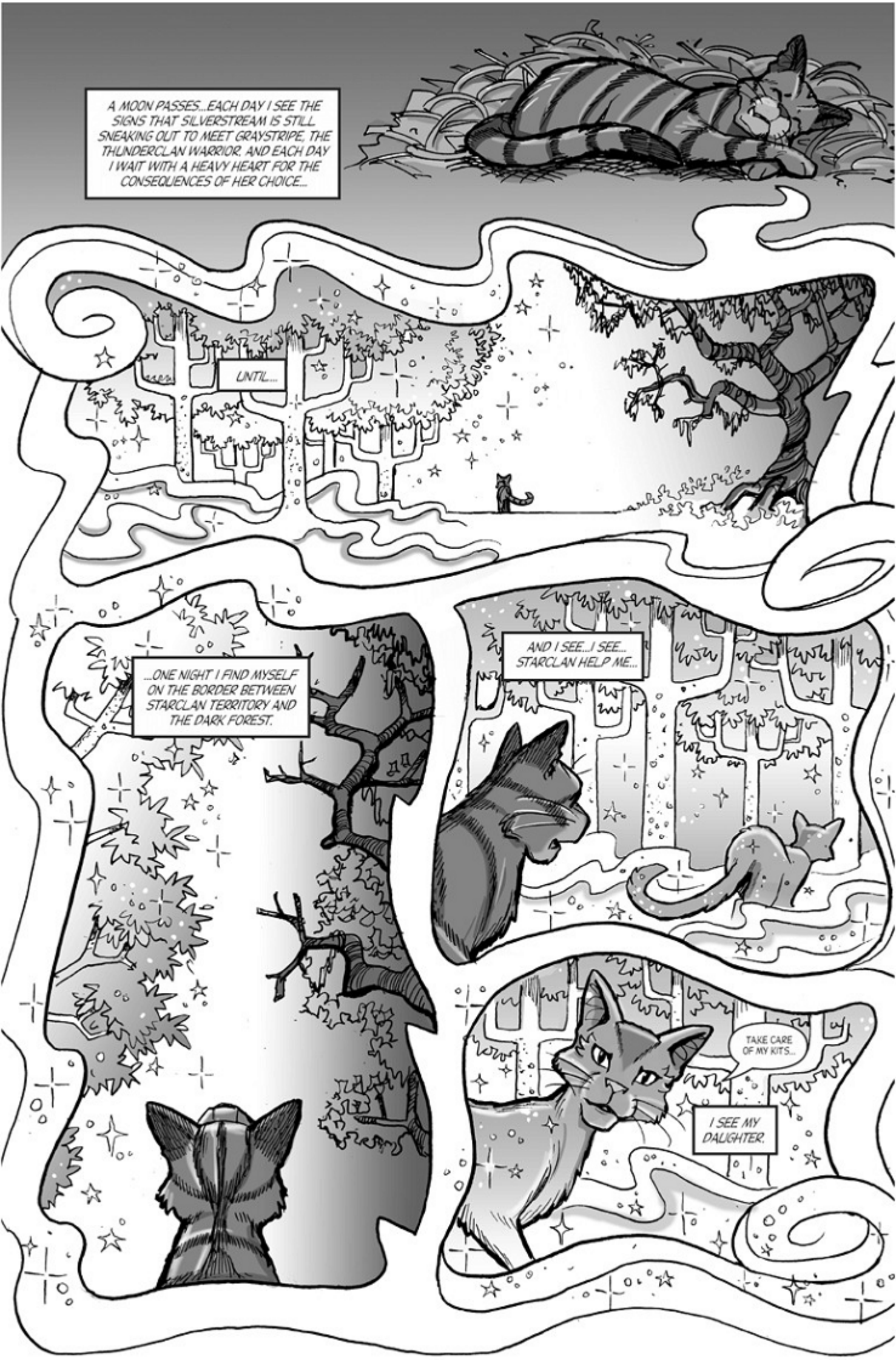
ERIN HUNTER

HA-HA-HA! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO CATCH THE FISH WITH YOUR CLAWS, MOSSPAW, NOT YOUR TEETH!
MY NAME IS CROOKEDSTAR. I'M THE LEADER OF RIVERCLAN.
THE CLAN IS ULTIMATELY MY RESPONSIBILITY. DANGERS, DISPUTES, EVEN WARS, EVERYTHING FALLS TO ME. BUT NOW AND THEN...
...I DO GET TO TAKE ON MORE PLEASANT DUTIES.
A FINE DAY FOR FISHING LESSONS, ISN'T IT, CROOKEDSTAR?
A PERFECT DAY FOR IT, SUNFISH.
HEE HEE HEE HEE!
BE QUIET, SHADEPAW!
AND IT DOES SEEM LIKE A PERFECT DAY...UNTIL I SPOT MY DAUGHTER.
SOMETHING'S BEEN TROUBLING HER LATELY. SHE'S HARDLY EATING... SHE'S CONSTANTLY DISTRACTED...
THE THOUGHT CREEPS IN: IS SHE ILL?

SILVERSTREAM?
...SILVERSTREAM!
WHAT--OH! I DIDN'T SEE YOU THERE!
OBVIOUSLY. WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
OH, JUST... OUT.
I DON'T THINK SO. I DON'T WANT YOU GOING OUT ALONE.
WHAT? WHY?
JUST DO AS I SAY, SILVER-STREAM.
{SIGH}
FINE. FINE.
WHY...? BECAUSE I CAN'T HELP BEING CONCERNED. I LOVE YOU, AND I CAN'T BEAR THE THOUGHT OF LOSING YOU.

RIVERCLAN HAS BEEN DOING WELL. I WISH OAKHEART COULD SEE IT. I MISS HIM.
I ALSO WISH THE SHADOW HANGING OVER ME WOULD LEAVE... BUT I KNOW IT WON'T. NOT EVER.
BECAUSE, YEARS AGO, I MADE A PROMISE.
MUDFUR--HAVE YOU NOTICED ANYTHING...OFF ABOUT SILVERSTREAM LATELY?
I DON'T THINK SO. SHE SEEMED FINE WHEN SHE CAME BACK TO CAMP, AND THEN SHE WENT RIGHT BACK OUT ON PATROL.
IT'S NOT LIKE HER TO BE SO SECRETIVE, OR TO DISOBEY ME. SOMETHING'S UP.
THERE SHE IS! AND SHE'S WITH SOMEONE...IT'S...
...I SMELL THUNDERCLAN! SHE...

MAPLESHADE'S WORDS RING IN MY EARS...
"I CAN GIVE YOU EVERYTHING YOU EVER DREAMED OF, POWER OVER ALL YOUR CLANMATES..."
"...IF YOU PROMISE TO BE LOYAL TO YOUR CLAN ABOVE ALL OTHER THINGS."
SILVERSTREAM!
FATHER, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TAKING UP WITH A THUNDERCLAN CAT? HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND?
I KNEW YOU'D FEEL THIS WAY. I KNEW IT. THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T TELL YOU.
SILVERSTREAM, YOUR HEART SHOULD LIE WITH YOUR CLAN! I THOUGHT I TAUGHT YOU THAT!
YOU'RE OBSESSED WITH CLAN LOYALTY. IF YOU COULD SEE BEYOND YOUR NOSE, YOU'D REALIZE...
...THERE'S A LOT MORE TO LIFE THAN WHAT WE'VE GOT IN ONE LITTLE CLAN.
GRAYSTRIPE IS A GREAT AND WORTHY WARRIOR. IF THE WARRIOR CODE CAN'T DEAL WITH THIS...
...THEN MAYBE THE WARRIOR CODE NEEDS TO CHANGE.
I KNOW YOU'RE WORRIED BECAUSE YOU LOVE ME. AND I LOVE YOU, TOO. I'LL ALWAYS BE YOUR DAUGHTER.
BUT YOU HAVE TO LET ME CHOOSE MY OWN FUTURE.


A MOON PASSES...EACH DAY I SEE THE SIGNS THAT SILVERSTREAM IS STILL SNEAKING OUT TO MEET GRAYSTRIPE, THE THUNDERCLAN WARRIOR. AND EACH DAY I WAIT WITH A HEAVY HEART FOR THE CONSEQUENCES OF HER CHOICE...
UNTIL...
...ONE NIGHT I FIND MYSELF ON THE BORDER BETWEEN STARCLAN TERRITORY AND THE DARK FOREST.
AND I SEE...I SEE... STARCLAN HELP ME...
TAKE CARE OF MY KITS...
I SEE MY DAUGHTER.

SHE'S GONE... SILVERSTREAM HAS GONE TO STARCLAN...
HSSSS
YOUR PUNISHMENT IS COMPLETE NOW, CROOKEDSTAR.
YOU HAVE LOST EVERY-THING.
NO, MAPLESHADE. YOU'RE WRONG.
I STILL HAVE A CLAN THAT I LOVE AND AM PROUD TO LEAD. AND NOW...
...NOW EVERYTHING PRECIOUS TO ME IS HERE, IN STARCLAN. MY FAMILY IS WAITING HERE FOR ME, WHEN MY NINTH LIFE HAS PASSED.

IT'S YOU WHO HAS LOST.
YOU HAVE NO POWER OVER ME ANYMORE.
I HAVE DESTROYED YOU!
NO, MAPLESHADE.
I STILL HAVE THE CATS THAT I LOVED. I KNOW THEY ARE WATCHING OVER ME.
YOU HAVE NOTHING. AND NO ONE.
"CROOKEDSTAR... CROOKEDSTAR, WAKE UP..."
CROOKEDSTAR... MISTYFOOT MET A THUNDERCLAN CAT BY THE RIVER. SHE...SHE HAS SOME TERRIBLE NEWS.
IT'S ABOUT SILVERSTREAM.
ALL RIGHT.
SEND MISTYFOOT IN.

SEVERAL MOONS HAVE PASSED SINCE I SAW MAPLESHADE FOR THE LAST TIME AND...HAD TO SAY GOOD-BYE TO SILVERSTREAM.
MY DAUGHTER LIVES ON IN HER KITS, FEATHERPAW AND STORMPAW.

IT HASN'T BEEN EASY FOR HIM. NOT ALL OF US ACCEPT HIM, DESPITE HOW HARD HE TRIES.
BUT HE'S HERE, DOING THIS FOR THE SAKE OF HIS SON AND DAUGHTER. SILVERSTREAM WAS RIGHT...HE IS A GREAT AND WORTHY WARRIOR.

I HAVE TO TRUST THAT SILVERSTREAM WILL FORGIVE ME IF I STILL WISH SHE HAD CHOSEN A RIVERCLAN MATE.

IT MIGHT NOT HAVE CHANGED HER FATE... BUT IT WOULD HAVE MADE THINGS SIMPLER.

SINCE WHEN DID YOU WANT A SIMPLE LIFE?
BRAMBLEBERRY! I'VE MISSED YOU SINCE YOU JOINED STARCLAN. IT'S TRUE. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN TERRIBLE TO BE BORED! AND I HAVE SO MANY HAPPY MEMORIES.
YOU'VE DONE WELL. IT'S BEEN HARD FOR YOU, I KNOW.
IT WAS MY DESTINY. AND I MEANT MY PROMISE WHEN I VOWED TO BE LOYAL TO MY CLAN FOR MY WHOLE LIFE.
NO CAT COULD DOUBT THAT. YOU WILL BE REMEMBERED AS ONE OF THE GREATEST LEADERS OF ANY CLAN.
YES.
SO, IT'S TIME?
IT'S ALL RIGHT. I'VE HAD A GOOD LIFE. A GOOD NINE LIVES, IN FACT.
I'VE ACHIEVED EVERYTHING I WANTED, AND THERE ARE SOME OLD FRIENDS I'VE BEEN LONGING TO SEE.
WELL, COME ALONG, THEN...
...THEY'RE WAITING FOR YOU.

MY FRIENDS... MY FAMILY...
IT'S JUST SO GOOD TO SEE YOU ALL...!
OH, MY LOVE.
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.
THE END